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HARVARD LIBRARY NOTES

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DECEMBER No. 9 1922

MR. COOLIDGE is the Editor of 'Foreign Affairs, An American Quarterly Review,' published by the Council on Foreign Relations, at New York. The first number appeared in September.

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MR. JOHN SINGER SARGENT'S paintings for the two panels at the turn in the main stairway of the Library building were put in place for a private view on Sunday, October 28, and two days later the protecting curtains were dropped by President Lowell. Dean Edgell describes the paintings in the 'Harvard Alumni Bulletin' for November 9 as ' a great decorative composition, aptly conceived and executed from the point of view of its architectural setting.'

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MR. MARVIN C. TAYLOR of Concord delivered to the Library last summer a letter addressed to the President and Corporation of Harvard University, in March, 1780. It was written by M. Antoine Court de Gebelin, who gave the letter to John Adams, together with a set of the six volumes then published of his ' Monde primitif, analysé et comparé avec le monde moderne,' to be transmitted to Harvard. These volumes were duly received by the Library in November, 1780, as is attested by the bookplates. The accompanying letter was by good fortune preserved by the Rev. Samuel Cooper, who was then a member of the Corporation. His descendants have now given it to the Library, where it has rejoined the volumes with which it crossed the Atlantic.

MRS. LIVINGSTON has issued, with the help of Mr. William S. Mason of Evanston, Illinois, the third 'Livingston Reprint,' containing a facsimile of the original edition of Franklin's 'Story of the Whistle,' which was printed at Paris, in French and English, in 1779. The facsimile was printed under the directions of Bruce Rogers at the Harvard University Press.

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THE LIBRARY recently received from Mr. John B. Stetson, Jr. a small collection of Russian authors in Russian. Each of the books has an autograph inscription signed by the author.

* * *

REFERENCE was made in the last number of the LIBRARY NOTES to a shipment of German books received in May and attention was called to the fact that the average cost per volume was only thirty-six cents. This price, which in many cases included binding in half morocco, and covered an invoice containing books both old and new, seemed so low that it was decidedly worth noting. But during the summer and fall the value of the mark has steadily shrunk, with the result that the cost of German books has become less and less. On August 11th, the Library received a shipment of seven hundred volumes from Leipzig; the average cost was nine and a quarter cents. And on October 11th, there was another shipment, this time of half the size, on which the cost per volume had decreased to four and one third cents. Many volumes in this consignment cost less than a cent apiece.

This, however, is only one side — whether sunny or shady depends on the point of view—of the library's current budget situation. The teachers of modern government and economics insist that their students shall have the use of contemporary newspapers, as a legitimate medium for academic work. It cost $78 last year to bind the single year of the 'Chicago Tribune.' The legitimate

demands for means of instruction must always be given precedence over the general development of the library, in the use of unrestricted funds.

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A VOLUME OF WAR POSTERS in the Harry Elkins Widener Collection provides material for instructive comparison with the comprehensive store of broadsides given to the library by Mr. Ellis Loring Dresel '87, Mr. Guy Emerson, '08, and others. Five of these were copied from Russian posters that were issued during Napoleon's retreat from Moscow, and their preservation is due to the fact that they were engraved in London over a century ago by George Cruikshank. Cruikshank closely followed the original colored prints, which must have been sent from Russia by some English agent. Besides the copies, the collection contains two of the original Russian prints. Both in details of execution and in delicacy of coloring, these originals show a much higher artistic sense and more finished technique than the English reproductions.

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MR. DANIEL PAINE GRISWOLD'S dramatic library, which was bequeathed to Harvard by his widow, is to be shelved in the main room of the Theatre Collection. Mrs. Griswold's executor, Mr. Henry W. Sackett of Providence, not only assumed all the charges incidental to the bequest, but agreed to a liberal interpretation of the conditions of the gift. Mr. Potter examined the books and selected those of special value or rarity. They make a very distinguished small collection, and will round out the selected library in the Theatre room, where they will be available for consultation.

The books in the ' Daniel Paine Griswold, '87, Memorial Collection ' fall into three groups. The biographies of stage celebrities and narratives of Green Room gossip include many very scarce early works, some of which were either privately printed or issued from presses in the

smaller English provincial towns, for a limited circle of readers. With these there are a few local theatrical play-bills, which are always difficult to find. The copies of the better known biographies — Siddons, Jordan, George Frederick Cooke, Macready, Kemble, Garrick, and others — are extra illustrated, largely with contemporary play-bills of Covent Garden and its rival London theatres. There is a representative group of the collected writings of Restoration and earlier dramatists, issued during the nineteenth century. The steadily increasing demand for these editions by libraries, and the almost continuous use of them by students of literature, makes it particularly desirable for the Harvard library to have a second set. These are supplemented by a small but choice shelf-full of original quarto plays, about a hundred in all, by Massinger, Congreve, Davenant, Cibber, Dryden, Addison, Minshull, Sheridan, Ford, Gay, Sedley, Lee, Steele, Killigrew and others less well known.

An unusual American play is 'The Search after Happiness: a Pastoral Drama by a Lady in Connecticut,' printed at Catskill by M. Crowell & Co. in 1794.

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THE RECENT GIFT of a complete copy of the first Bible in the Hawaiian language, printed in 1837, and of the even scarcer first Hymn Book in the same tongue, of 1823, recalls attention to the Library's very strong collection of the productions of the famous Sandwich Islands Mission Press. This collection was established by a gift from William Tufts Brigham, '62, received in 1866. Although Mr. Brigham's name stands alone on the library bookplate in these books, it is supposed that he acted on behalf of James Frothingham Hunnewell, Sanford B. Dole, and the other members of the Hawaiian Club of Boston. This Club was composed of a number of Boston gentlemen who had business interests in the Pacific. The College Library had at that time, according to Mr. Hunnewell,

'the most extensive existing collection' of books relating to the Hawaiian Islands, and these were freely placed at the disposal of a Committee of the Club for use in compiling a bibliography for its 'Papers.' In return for this courtesy, the Club assisted Mr. Brigham in making a collection of island imprints, for presentation to Harvard.

The Hymn Book of 1823 carries the collection back to the second year of printing in the mid-Pacific. It is the sixth item printed at the press, according to the 'History of the Hawaiian Mission Press' by Howard M. Ballou, '92, printed in 1908. It was preceded by two editions of a spelling book, and by three broadsides or cards, no copies of which are known to exist. The 2000 copies of the original edition were used up in three years, and a second edition, of 10,000 copies, was printed in 1826.

The income of $2000 given by Mr. William R. Castle of Honolulu makes it possible for the Hawaiian section to hold its own, both in the line of current publications relating to the islands, and through the occasional purchase of older books.

* * *

THE LIBRARY has possessed, since September 26, 1770, a fine copy of John Davies's 'Antiquae Linguae Britannicae Nunc Vulgo dictae Cambro-Britannicae, A suis Cymraecae vel Cambricae, Ab aliis Wallicae, et linguae Latinae Dictionarium Duplex,' which was printed at London in 1632. On a fly leaf the donor, Thomas Hollis, wrote:

'A fine copy of a rare work. It cost a guinae. T. H. is fond of sending Lexicons and Grammars to Harvard College, in aid of those *first-rate* Scholars, possibly half a dozen, the noblest of all men, who, he trusts, are now forming there.

'Those Scholars, no doubt, will bear in mind, and model themselves, HARD, upon that glorious passage in a tract, written by the matchless John Milton, intitled, 'The Rea-

son of Church Government urged against Prelaty,' that part of it especially which declares —'These thoughts possest me, and these others, that if I were certain to write as men buy leases for three lives and downward, there ought no regard be sooner had, than to God's glory, by the honor and instruction of my Country.'

* * *

THE WILL OF FRANK E. CHASE, '76, bequeathed to the Library the residuum of his estate to establish a fund the income of which is to be devoted primarily to the purchase of books relating to the theatre and the drama. Two installments of this bequest have been paid by the executor of Mr. Chase's estate and the fund thus created amounts to the sum of $70,000. Already a few purchases have been made from this new and welcome fund and orders have been sent to England for a number of early plays. The first book thus bought was a rare tract printed in 1641 entitled 'The Stage-players Complaint. In a pleasant Dialogue between Cane of the Fortune and Reed of the Friers. Deploring their sad and solitary conditions for want of Imployment. In this heavie and Contagious time of the Plague in London.' This little volume of four leaves was obtained from Messrs. Pickering and Chatto of London and is the Daniels-Huth copy. It has been reprinted, but of the original only three other copies are said to be known. A. C. P.

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NOTES on books in Italian, Portuguese, Scandinavian and West African languages are omitted for lack of space.

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ANOTHER SHIPMENT, consisting of eleven additional cases of Russian books, reached the Boston Custom House on December 11.

THE RUSSIAN BOOKS

The books secured by Mr. Coolidge while he was in Russia a year ago amount in all to over 3000 pieces. The first shipment of forty cases reached the library on June 7. Ten of these, containing legal publications, went direct to the Law School, and their contents do not figure in the total count given above. Of the others, one contained purchases made for Mr. Shaw as additions to the Theatre Collection, eight were filled with Fine Arts publications, and the others with miscellaneous, chiefly historical, material. Since their arrival, Miss Ivanovski has been giving all of her time to the cataloguing of these books, with much help from Miss Wood (for classification), Miss Crowley, and Miss Clifton, who has been recording the periodicals and preparing them for binding. Mr. Currier has personally taken charge of the work. The bulky part of the task is now out of the way, and the larger proportion of the bound volumes are ready to go to the shelves. The others are rapidly being made ready for binding, but as a very large part of the books had to be taken in unbound condition, it will be some time before these can all be put through. All but one of the splendid Fine Arts publications, with their plates requiring especial care, and the long sets of church history serials, have been bundled for indefinite storage, until funds for binding are secured.

Mr. Coolidge described the difficulties incidental to securing these books in a letter written from Moscow in November, 1921:

'The main object of this letter is to explain to you the book buying situation here. To begin with, the Soviet Government in theory nationalized, i.e. confiscated, all private collections including those of the book stores. What they have done with the vast masses they got together, no one knows, not they themselves. I suppose there are probably large stocks dumped into warehouses;

some have been sent to Soviet institutions here and in the provinces; some have got lost or been destroyed; some have escaped their claws through accident or pull. It will take years before things are unravelled.

'Now shops have started again but their stocks are small. People go to them to sell the books in their possession; others (perhaps speculators or profitteers) come and buy. There are wonderful chances at bargains as far as the actual first prices of the books are concerned, though these go up as the rouble goes down, but the chance of getting particular things is comparatively small, for if a shop does not have a certain book it probably does not know where to look for it.

' Purchases have to be made from the local stock. This is a country where there are no banks, a most untrustworthy post office, no ordinary ways of sending money or packages, no advertisements in the newspapers, and of course no such things as catalogues, etc. I doubt whether a Moscow bookseller has any regular means of getting a book from Petrograd, and it was in Petrograd rather than here that most books were printed, especially publications subsidized by the government.

' Then there is the question of transportation and export. I do not know how to send a box of books out of the country, and each work would in theory at least have to have the permit of the censor. I doubt whether such things as express agents exist. The idea at present is to send everything to Riga in one shipment as soon as circumstances permit, and let them lie there until it fits in with our plans to ship them to the United States.'

A month later he wrote; ' The question of cost is not simple. For instance, the first time I drew money here I got 85 thousand roubles for the dollar; the last time 250. But ten days ago the curb rate had in some cases got up to 500 thousand; then the government called in some advances, the speculators got scared, there was a rush for roubles and three days ago the dollar had sunk to 160.

So, drawing as little as I can at one time, if I take a week about paying for books I have ordered, they may well cost me 50 percent more, or less, than the price in dollars I had in mind.

'And the worst of it is that most things and notably books have risen as the exchange has gone down, but a sudden rise in the rouble would not be followed for a good while by any lowering in the price of books and might well leave them so dear to me that I would have to stop buying. They are not marvellously cheap even now, indeed not as cheap I should say as some of the other purchases we have made in the past two years. I am going to plunge ahead trusting to luck, buying when I have some money that did not cost too much, and stopping as much as I can when the dollar falls. I say as much as I can, but when I have ordered things I cannot well refuse to take them and experience has shown me that good things are selling rapidly, just why I do not know. Perhaps people realize that the reserve stock is so small. Altogether pray for my financial safety.

'One principle I am deliberately violating, that of not getting incomplete sets. The fact is there are very few sets of recent works to be had that are not incomplete, and it seems to me quite unlikely that we shall ever have another chance. Too many books have been destroyed or hopelessly scattered, (I am afraid the publications of the Lazarev Institute have been wiped out). I shall simply go ahead and get what I can and thank Heaven for that.' The Lazarev publications, which Professor Blake was particularly anxious to secure, were luckily obtained later.

Just before leaving Russia, Mr. Coolidge wrote; 'The books will be of various kinds. The attempt to get a theatrical collection has been a failure. The man I set to work to look up such things was incompetent, the books I got from him seemed to me rather dear, and he never got on the track of any considerable number of actor's portraits or things of that sort. In my early days here I

picked up a number of works on Russian art but I did not do the thing systematically and have got nothing lately. I have a collection of Russian philosophical works in sight but do not know how seriously I shall try to get them.'

'What I have gone in for is history and I think I have been fairly successful. The shelf list and the list of desiderata compiled by Professor Lord have both been very helpful, in fact, I do not know that I should have gone ahead without them. If you have not set your heart too much on any particular things I think you will be fairly satisfied and that we shall have decidedly strengthened our collection.

'At Petrograd books are more abundant as well as cheaper than they are here. But Petrograd has played a mean trick on me. After gathering together all the Academy and archaeological things that I asked for, they then fixed the price. They took the former one in gold roubles and proceeded to double it. It was a low trick but it was a government commission and I have no way of bargaining or putting pressure on them. It was take it or leave it, and I have decided to take. All told, this book buying business is proving too complicated for my peace of mind. If I can pull this through successfully without some big smash I shall retire from the profession contented.

In negotiating for these books Mr. Coolidge was greatly assisted by Professor F. A. Golder. Mr. Golder took his Doctorate at Harvard in 1903, and since then has spent much time at Cambridge, so that he was thoroughly familiar with what the library already possessed as well as the kind of books which are most likely to be wanted here. He was engaged primarily in collecting books for Mr. Hoover, who is bringing together an extraordinarily comprehensive collection of material relating to the World War and its aftermath, which he is giving to Leland Stanford Junior University. The two Russian sections, at Palo Alto and at Cambridge, naturally overlap in many respects, but in their main lines they run along diverging courses.

The Harvard purchases include not only current publications about contemporary or recent events, but much more largely those dating from pre-Revolutionary Russia. Mr. Coolidge was gratifyingly successful in finding several long series of the older scholarly periodicals and the publications of learned societies which the library needed. The Harvard collection of series of this character has long been easily the largest in the United States, so that every addition to it reenforces one of the library's most secure bulwarks. Of the recent acquisitions, the most considerable is a splendid set of the ' Chteniia ' of the Moscow Society for Russian History and Antiquities covering the years from 1847 to 1918. This is paralleled if not fully equalled by a set of its own publications presented by the University of Kazan, covering a period of nearly fifty years. Several sets of ecclesiastical periodicals, the Bogoslovskii Viestnik of Moscow, Khristianskoe Chtenie of Petrograd, and Viera i Razum of Kharkov, as well as the publications of the theological academies of Kiev and Kazan, have a very high standing on account of the scholarly character of the contributions which deal frequently with the historical, antiquarian and artistic aspects or matters of religious concern. In addition to these sets, there were a great many special publications issued for a limited circle, which it is particularly difficult to learn about at the time they appear, and harder to get hold of afterward.

The other main division covered by these Russian books is that of the Fine Arts. Russian scholars have done their full share in studying the past of their artistic heritage, and in preserving its records in elaborate publications. The treasures of the Byzantine period, and the wonderful examples of the craftsmanship and artistic skill which were lavished upon the holy eikons, in particular, were made available for further study and for comparison with similar examples elsewhere, in a considerable number of monumental works which were produced with the care and the disregard of cost which was possible under the

imperial régime. Of these the library now possesses some hundred volumes, placing this field of artistic and cultural development on a par with any other represented at Harvard. The most striking example of the extraordinarily high technical skill developed by the imperial Russian craftsmen in reproducing ancient works, in exact facsimile in every detail of binding as well as text, is the copy of a famous sixteenth century Gospel recovered from a monastery at Archangel.

While the larger part of the art books deal with the old art, the modern schools are likewise represented by a number of monographs devoted to individual artists like Vrubel, and by several magnificently illustrated works.

Closely allied in academic interest with the preceding is a goodly group of the publications of archaeological societies and congresses, second in extent and importance only to the more strictly artistic works. A small but significant group of works dealing with the Russian drama and stagecraft ought also to be noted.

CZECHOSLOVAKIANA

Czechoslovakia seems to be at the present time by far the best organized and the most promising country in Central Europe. On account of its geographical position and its well developed industries, this new republic is assuming in European affairs a growing economic and political importance, which naturally stimulates abroad an interest in the culture and the literature of its people. It is, therefore, to be noted with satisfaction that the Harvard College Library has recently acquired a substantial number of Czechoslovak books in addition to those which it already had.

The new books consist primarily of three classes:

The first comprises some 140 volumes in Czechoslovak literature, novels, plays, poetry. Nearly all of these belong to the 19th and 20th centuries. In selecting them an

effort has been made to secure the most representative works of the authors as well as works of importance for the study of comparative literature.

To the second class belong sets of periodicals, including: 42 volumes of ' Listy Filologické ' (Journal of Philology), not counting 6 vols. which are lacking for the set to be complete; 25 volumes of ' Naše Doba ' (Our Times), the periodical formerly edited by President Masaryk, with 3 vols. lacking; and 7 volumes (a complete set) of ' Časopis pro Moderni Filologii a Literatury ' (Journal of Modern Philology and Literatures). Complete sets of these periodicals are no longer obtainable, and a great many of the above volumes were picked up in second hand book-shops.

These periodicals form an important addition to those already in the Library. The ' Listy Filologické ' and the ' Naše Doba ' are particularly important, the former not only for the study of Slavic philology and Czechoslovak and other Slavic literatures, but also from the point of view of comparative literature, the latter for the study of social and other forces which either held together or tended to disrupt the old Austro-Hungarian monarchy.

The third class contains a generous contribution by the Czech Academy of 92 volumes of their publications in philology in general and Czechoslovak literature in particular. Many of these volumes are rapidly becoming unobtainable, because they were published in rather limited editions which cannot continue for long to supply the increasing demand created by the establishment of new institutions of learning and especially by the enormous spread of public libraries since the emancipation of the people from the Austrian yoke. In fact very many of the volumes donated by the Academy were taken out of the so-called ' iron-drawers,' where the last few copies of each work are kept.

Besides the groups of volumes mentioned under these three classes the collection contains a number of other works and many pamphlets of varied contents.

The collection, of course, is far from complete. Some of the most important and the most characteristic works are not included, because they could not be obtained either new or second-hand. Then, too, the matter of funds had to be considered.

In selecting the volumes many valuable suggestions were received from Professor P. M. Haškovec, of the recently founded University of Brno, and especially from Professor Jan Jakubec, of the University of Prague.

John Hornicek

THE CHINESE ROOM

The Chinese and Japanese books are collected in the small room, No. 92, on the ground floor of the library, between stack floor B and the Lower Catalogue Room. The Chinese collection consists of a splendid gilt, bound edition of the classics, a good account of Budda in two hundred volumes, containing also a commentary, an Encyclopedia of things Chinese, the Confucion Analects, and numerous dictionaries.

The Classics are composed of the Book of Changes, the Book of Odes, The Book of Histories, Annals of Spring and Autumn, etc. The purpose of this edition is similar to that of our own ' Oxford Book of Verse.' The Chinese Classics present a fine selection from the best of a literature that covers a longer period than any other literature on earth. The weakness of the library lies in not possessing an edition of the ' Four Departments of Literature,' which is a hundred times as voluminous as the Classics.

The Edition of Budda is excellent and is beautifully printed on snow white loosely-bound leaves. The characters are large and easily read. But, as if to offset this completeness in one line, a bad omission occurs in the absence of a volume of Taoistic literature.

It is interesting to note that during the change of the

mysticism of Lao Tze into the actual materialization of the hidden forces of nature a science most similar to and in fact the foundation of our own Alchemy arose. Thus one feels the advisability of having the complete literature of the Tao followers here.

The crowning edition of the whole collection is the Chinese Encyclopedia in four hundred odd volumes, containing a perfect summary of the history, civilization, and thought of China. It is a stupendous compilation written in the antique idiom. The perusal of this makes our own civilization seem just born. Beauty underlies the civilization of the Orient, as the reading of the collection well illustrates. This beauty is close to profundity.

PETER WOOLDRIDGE

FROM MANILA

A messenger came to Cambridge last July bringing a suit-case filled with books which had been shipped to him for this Library from John Bordman, '94. Several of the books are early Manila imprints of great importance to our linguistic collection. Among them are:

ARTE de la lengva pampanga. Compvesto por el P. lector Fr. Diego Bergaño de el orden de los Hermitaños de nvestro padre San Augustin. [Manila], 1729.

ARTE de la lengua zebuana.

This work, which appeared without a title page or any indication of authorship or place of printing, is the subject of a long note in the 'Adiciones y Continuacion de 'La Imprenta en Manila de J. T. Medina,' by PP. Angel Perez and Cecilio Guemes, Manila, 1904. They were unable to find any confirmation of the statement that this 'Arte' was printed secretly at Sampaloc in 1804, and as they could not find a copy of the book, they were equally unable to test the ascribed authorship, of Fr. Francisco Encina, by comparison with a manuscript of a similar manual which bears his name.

ARTE de la lengua bisaya-hiligayna de la Isla de Panay. Compuesto por fr. Alonso de Mentrida de la Orden de San Augustin. Manila, 1818.

ARTE de la lengua tagala, y manual tagalog. Compuso Fray Sebastian de Totanes. Manila, 1850.

There is also a manuscript book containing shipping articles of the Juanita y Paula, dated 1896.

The library already possessed in the collection of 'Writings of the Class of 1894,' presented on its Twenty-fifth Anniversary, Mr. Bordman's own 'Manual de Conversaciones en Castellano, Tagalo é Inglés con la pronunciación figurada,' which was printed at Manila, when he was in the Philippines as captain of the 26th Infantry and his 'Manual dialogos en Tagalo, Inglés y Castellano,' and 'Manual de dialogos en Visayan, Inglés y Castellano,' both published in 1901.

In a letter dated August 27, 1922, Bordman says of the books:

'Those were some that I got here in the southern provinces in 1899, others being lost when my parents' home was broken up by their death in 1917, while I was out here.

'They were brought in by my patrols in Gen. Hughes' first expedition when I had been directed to prepare a conversational manual for the soldiers, and I was looking for vernacular dictionaries or vocabularies in the deserted villages. I had given orders that all books found were to be brought in to me.

'They cannot be had today probably, surely not in Manila.'

T. F. C.

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